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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 12 April 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Ramírez Carreño ..... (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda

Organization of the 2016 Pacific Regional Seminar

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

2. **The Chair** said that the delegations of Costa Rica and Palau had indicated their wish to participate in the work of the Committee as observers.

Organization of the 2016 Pacific regional seminar (A/AC.109/2016/19)

3. **The Chair** said that, at the previous organizational meeting, held on 25 February 2016, it had been announced that if no Asia-Pacific member offered to host the seminar by 14 March, any other Committee member would be welcome to do so. Following an informal offer made by Nicaragua after expiration of the deadline and the Bureau's subsequent endorsement of that offer, Nicaragua had officially offered to host the seminar by a letter dated 25 March 2016, addressed to the Chair and circulated to the Committee under the no-objection procedure. He took it that the Committee agreed to accept the offer to hold the seminar in Managua, from 31 May to 2 June 2016, to coincide with the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, which would begin on 25 May.

4. *It was so decided.*

5. **The Chair** thanked the Government and people of Nicaragua, on behalf of the Committee, for the generous offer to host the regional seminar for a second consecutive year, which demonstrated that country's strong commitment to the work of the Committee.

6. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua) said that Nicaragua had long championed social justice and the eradication of colonialism and, as a country with Caribbean and Pacific shores, was proud to host the 2016 Pacific regional seminar, which would contribute to the Committee's work. Logistical preparations were already under way and were made easier by the fact that Nicaragua had hosted the Caribbean regional seminar in 2015.

7. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia) said that his delegation welcomed the generous offer by Nicaragua to host the seminar, the theme of which would help to ensure the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Indonesia would fully support and participate in the seminar and hoped that the Secretariat would be able to finalize all arrangements ahead of time.

Guidelines, rules of procedure and agenda of the seminar

8. **The Chair** drew attention to the guidelines, rules of procedure and provisional agenda for the seminar, as contained in document A/AC.109/2016/19. The text was basically the same as in previous years, except for the venue, dates and languages to be used by the seminar; the working languages would be English, French and Spanish, since he intended to preside over deliberations in Spanish. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the guidelines, rules of procedure, theme and agenda of the seminar.

9. *It was so decided.*

Composition of the official delegation

10. **The Chair** recalled that the Committee's official delegation to the seminar would comprise the Chair, his adviser, members of the Bureau and one Committee member from each regional group represented on the Committee. The Group of Eastern European States would be represented by its sole member on the Committee, the Russian Federation; the other three regional groups should undertake the necessary consultations to present official nominations without delay. The United Nations would bear the travel costs and daily subsistence allowances of the delegation.

Extension of invitations to experts and organizations

11. **The Chair** said that the Bureau had decided to maintain the Committee's practice of extending seminar invitations to selected experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations. He took it that the Committee wished to authorize the Chair and the Bureau to finalize the list of experts and organizations invited to the seminar.

12. *It was so decided.*

13. **Mr. Minah** (Sierra Leone) asked whether the Bureau could disclose the current list of experts and the criteria for inclusion in or removal from that list.

14. **The Chair** said that the Bureau would discuss the matter at its forthcoming meeting and would circulate the list to the members of the Committee for approval

as soon as possible. He also recalled that, in accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure for the seminar, participation would be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations had been addressed by the Chair, or to their proven representatives if any of those persons were unable to attend.

15. *It was so decided.*

Extension of invitations to representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories

16. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with the established practice of the Committee, invitations to the seminar would be extended to all elected and appointed officials of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The United Nations would bear the travel costs of the officials of all Non-Self-Governing Territories. Invitations would also be extended to the administering Powers and other Member States, specialized agencies within the United Nations system and some regional organizations. However, their travel and accommodation costs would not be borne by the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.